

Daley Takes Top DPW Spot in Newton

By ADAM SWIFT

Duxbury DPW Director Tom Daley is leaving next month to take the top public works position in Newton.

Making the decision to leave Duxbury was the toughest career decision Daley said he has ever had to make.

"Duxbury has been a fantastic place to work," he said. "The staff, the managers, the department heads and the citizens are all wonderful and I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here."

"I wish him the best," said Town Manager Richard MacDonald, adding that Daley has been a valuable employee and public works director since coming to town in 2001. Daley previously worked as the city engineer in Newton before coming to Duxbury.

Working for a city and overseeing a department of about 230 employees was too big of an opportunity to pass up, Daley said.

"I know the city, having worked there, and there are great people there, too," he said. "It will be a huge challenge, but it should be great."

In addition to supervising a much larger staff, Daley said some of the big issues he'll be dealing with off the bat in Newton include solid waste



Tom Daley

issues and a Proposition 2 1/2 override.

"It's nothing I haven't dealt with before, just on a larger scale," Daley said.

Daley begins in Newton on March 3, but he said he'll be taking some vacation time at the end of February so he can go to Florida and visit his parents.

While he'll be starting in Newton at the beginning of March, Daley said he'll still be attending Duxbury's annual Town Meeting later that month.

In recent years, Daley has overseen expansion of the town cemetery, initial plans for the building of a 1-million-gallon water tank and changes at the transfer station in anticipation of pay-as-you-throw trash service.

In Newton, Daley will replace Bob Rooney, who was named the state's Deputy Secretary of Public Works by Governor Deval Patrick last summer. Newton's public works department is nearly ten times as large as Duxbury's.

MacDonald said he will put together a committee soon to find a replacement for Daley. He said he will also be meeting with Daley and the DPW department heads to come up with a plan to manage the department in the time between when Daley leaves and when a new director is hired.

Daley said the town's new pay-as-you-throw trash service is just about ready to go and that all the pieces will be in place for the April 1 start date.

"It's almost on remote control now," Daley said. "The bags have been ordered and we have contracts with the stores. It's been a favorable response from the stores, and they seem excited about it."

MacDonald said one of his major tasks with Daley leaving is to make sure the transition to pay-as-you-throw goes smoothly.

"We have to make sure everything is coordinated and that everyone is on board," he said.